

Baly, by the colour and punctuation of the thorax, and to *severini*, Jac., by the shortened antennæ, which hardly do more than reach the elytra; the scattering of the dark colour patches on the elytra gives the species the most speckled appearance of any of the group.

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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF  
*METEORUS* (BRACONIDÆ).

By G. T. LYLE, F.E.S.

*Meteorus niger*, sp. nov.

Thorax and abdomen entirely black with the exception of the prosternum (sometimes the whole prothorax), which is flavous. Legs with coxæ flavous, hind tibæ apically darker above, claws black. Head narrower than the thorax, occiput and vertex fuscous, with the orbits flavo-testaceous, face, clypeus, cheeks, mandibles, and palpi flavous. Antennæ filiform, as long as, or slightly longer than, the body, fuscous, lighter beneath, radicle flavous, annellus and base of post-annellus testaceous. Wings hyaline; stigma nigropiceous; nervures piceous, occasionally lighter; recurrent nervure everted (I possess a female in which it is interstitial in the right wing only), second cubital areolet not, or scarcely, narrowed towards the radius. Tracheal grooves distinct; terebra black, rather longer than half the abdomen.

Length, female without terebra,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 mm., expands  $9\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 mm.; male slightly smaller.

Described from ten males and twenty-eight females.

It should be noted that the terebra is very slightly longer than half the abdomen; the stigma is infusate throughout; the lower basal nervure is distinctly postfusal; the recurrent nervure is emitted from near base of the second cubital cell; and the radial cell of the hind wing is not germinated by a transverse nerve.

*Meteorus niger* is most closely allied to *M. melanostictus*, Capron, but differs therefrom principally in that the recurrent nervure is not continuous with the first intercubital; the mesosternum and metasternum are never testaceous; the terebra is at least as long as half the abdomen; the wings are hyaline; the postbrachial cell is shorter when compared with the præbrachial; and the insect is smaller.

This species (already referred to by me—but not described—in Entom. vol. xiv. p. 128) exhibits astonishingly little variation and is easily distinguished from its near relatives. In the New Forest it is a common solitary parasite of the larva of *Hygrochroa* (*Pericallia*) *syringaria*, from which host I have bred it in some numbers every year since 1903. Mr. Claude Morley informs me that he has received it from Mr. E. R. Buckell, who bred it from

New Forest specimens of the same host. Oviposition takes place in the autumn, and soon after the host larva starts feeding in the spring the parasite larva emerges. It spins a cocoon which is pendulous (suspended by a fine swing rope generally some 10 or 12 mm. in length), brown, shining and brighter in colour than those of *M. pulchricornis*, Wesm., *M. melanostictus*, and *M. scutellator*, Nees. The imago appears some fortnight or so later, and has occurred to me from April 4th to May 20th. So far this parasite has not been bred from any other hosts, though, undoubtedly, it is not confined to *H. syringaria*.\*

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In connection with the above I venture to transcribe a very interesting letter I received respecting the same host and parasite on June 5th, 1911.—CLAUDE MORLEY.

I found some larvæ of *H. syringaria* in the New Forest in late March; I got in all thirty larvæ; they grew a little until the first week in April, and then each larva, before attaining its full growth, hung itself to the food-plant or to the roof of the breeding-cage by a thread of between two and four inches. The body was kept doubled up. The next day a larva so suspended was found to have a pupa-case of an ichneumon suspended from it. The larva was then practically dead and quite unable to feed, and had become very shrunken. They subsequently died from these ichneumons, whose pupæ were suspended by some two to eight inches of thread, which was coarser than that by which the larva had suspended itself. The upper end of the parasitic pupa-case was dark, and in the lower part, after about a fortnight, one could see the body of the ichneumon. The fly emerged by cutting off a circular cap from the lower end of the pupa-case, or in a few cases by eating a rather irregular hole through the side of the case. The darkest specimens, the males, all came out first; and then the rather softer-bodied females, which had a yellowish patch in the centre of the dorsal surface of the abdomen. Out of the thirty New Forest larvæ, not one was free from an ichneumon, and in no case did more than one come out of each larva, and they all acted in the same manner. Four larvæ found ten miles from the New Forest were unattacked, and the imagos have come out.—E. R. BUCKELL; Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

DELAYED DEVELOPMENT OF WINGS IN LITHOSTEGE GRISEATA.—Delayed development of the wings has been noticed in various species of Lepidoptera. Blenkarn wrote a note on it in the case of *Chesias rufata* (*obliquaria*) and *C. spartiata* (Proc. South London Ent. and Nat. Hist. Soc., March 23rd, 1911). A delay of ten hours was

\* [I have examined Mr. Lyle's types of both sexes, and feel no doubt respecting the novelty of the species.—C. M.]